(d) the extent to which the centre will be able to preserve species ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the developed countries have such facilities.

(c) The total cost of the project is Rs. 550.00 lakhs.

(d) The preservation of the wild animals would mainly depend upon the success of the Government in arresting the degradation of wildlife habitats and preventing poaching. The project can only help in developing ex-situ populations for augmenting the deplating population in wild.

Aircrafts Ground

2897. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether atleast 2 Airbus-A320 aircraft belonging to Indian Airlines (IA) had been ground at New Delhi during the last month owing to lack of engine spares;

(b) if so, for how many days these aircraft remained grounded;

(c) the reasons for not stocking the engine spares at the Headquarters of the Indian Airlines at New Delhi;

(d) its impact on the disruption of IA's flight services; and

(e) the steps being taken to procure presently the engine spares and to keep a stock thereof atleast at the principal stations of the Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The spares for V2500 engine of A-320 aircraft are stored at New Delhi. Necessary spares are also kept at other major stations.

Opening of ONGC Office

2898. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a Regional Office of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Rajamundry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Requests have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a Regional Office of ONGC Ltd. at Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh). Krishna Godawari Project of ONGC Ltd. at Rajahmundry has been upgraded and the level of the Project Head has been increased from General Manager to Group General Manager with enhanced delegation of power. Giving further autonomy and delegation of power to the Project Head is under consideration of ONGC Ltd.

Air Service for Tiger Hill and Gangtok

2899. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for connecting Tiger Hill of Darjeeling and Gangtok of Sikkim by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no arerodrome at Tiger Hill of Darjeeling and Gangtok in Sikkim, nor has any request been received from any scheduled airline operator or Government of Sikkim.

Tourism Projects in Tripura

2900. SHRI BAJU BAN BIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has submitted proposals of developing of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects sanctioned out of them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) Each year the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance. For 1997-98, the Department of